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**WELLINGTON  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
(SOMERSET)**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

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- of the -

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

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**for the year 1957.**

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BY

Dr. HUGH MORRISON,  
M.B, Ch.B., D.P.H.



WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (SOMERSET)  
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1957.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1957.  
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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE  
TAUNTON ISOLATION HOSPITAL AND TAUNTON SANATORIUM, TAUNTON.

HUGH MORRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Apptd. August, 1946).

Office Address:- Mary Street House, Taunton.

Telephone:- Taunton 7275/6 (Office)  
Taunton 3304 (House)  
-----

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING OFFICER:-

A.J. HILL, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I. (Apptd. March, 1933).

Office Address:- Council Offices, Wellington, Somerset.

Telephone:- Wellington 2276 (Office).  
Wellington 2360 (House).  
-----

ISOLATION HOSPITAL:-

CHEDDON ROAD, TAUNTON

Telephone: taunton 2396  
-----

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:-

A.E, MARSHALL, Esq., F.P.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL:-

S.G. GLASS,

Address:- Council Offices, Wellington.

Telephone:- Wellington 2276 (Office).  
Wellington 2661 (House).  
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# WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

## STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1957.

Area (in Acres)	...	...	2,186
Estimate of Resident Population, mid year, 1957	...	...	7,410
Census population (1951)	...	...	7,298
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books on December 31st, 1957	...	...	2,440
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1957	...	...	£76,741
Sum represented by a 1 <sup>d</sup> . Rate, 31st December, 1957.	...	...	£300-16-10

## PHYSICAL CHARACTER AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Urban District of Wellington lies between 212 ft. at Tonedale in the North, and 293 ft. in the region of the Cemetery, above sea level. It is built upon the triassic rock (new red sandstone) here divisible into (1) marl, (2) sandstone, (3) conglomerate, (4) sand and sandstone. The town is chiefly upon sandstone. The marl is well shown in the direction of the Poole Brick Pits (just outside the District), and a narrow strip of marl crosses the Market Place extending  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the North-West. Rockwell Green is on the marl. The sandstones make a dry permeable soil. The marl and sandstone belong to the Keuper or upper division of the new red sandstone. Gravel patches occur over a considerable part of the triassic rocks between Wellington and Sampford Arundel.

The local industries are chiefly factories for the manufacture of woollen, worsted, cloth, serge, flock, bedding, and engineering works. Agriculture within and without the Urban District, and brick-making just outside the District also give employment to the inhabitants. The Census Population in 1911 was 7,633 - in 1921 it was 7,212 - in 1931 it was 7,132, and in 1951 it was 7,298.

## EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR, 1957.

### 1. Births.

#### (a) Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total.	Crude birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	
Legitimate	59	44	103		
Illegitimate	1	1	2		14.17
Totals:	60	45	105		

Standardised Birth Rate, Wellington U.D. ....	15.59
Birth Rate, England and Wales .....	16.1

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#### (b) Still Births.

Total .....	6
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births -	
Wellington U.D. ....	54.05
England and Wales .....	22.5
Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population -	
Wellington U.D. ....	0.81

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## 2. Deaths.

(a) Total Deaths .....	96
Crude Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ..	12.95
Standardised Death Rate, Wellington U.D. ....	10.62
Death Rate for England and Wales .....	11.5

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### (b) Maternal Mortality.

Total maternal deaths from all causes .....	0
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### (c) Infant Mortality.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age -	
Total .....	1
Deaths among legitimate infants .....	1
" " illegitimate infants .....	0
Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births-	
Wellington U.D. ....	9.01
England and Wales .....	23.1

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### (d) Deaths from Cancer (all ages) -

Total .....	14
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## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1957.

Cause of Death.	M	F	Total.
Tuberculosis respiratory .....	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other .....	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease .....	-	-	-
Diphtheria .....	-	-	-
Whooping Cough .....	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections .....	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	-	-	-
Measles .....	-	-	-
Other Infective and parasitic diseases .....	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach .....	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, bronchus .....	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, breast .....	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasms, uterus .....	-	-	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .....	3	5	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	-	-	-
Diabetes .....	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System..	6	12	18
Coronary Disease, Angina .....	9	7	16
Hypertension with Heart Disease.....	2	-	2
Other Heart Disease .....	7	8	15
Other circulatory disease .....	4	3	7
Influenza .....	1	1	2
Pneumonia .....	2	1	3
Bronchitis .....	3	1	4
Other diseases of respiratory system .....	3	-	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate .....	1	-	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations .....	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	1	3	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	1	-	1
All other Accidents .....	1	-	1
Suicide .....	1	-	1
Homicide and operations of war .....	-	-	-
All causes - Total:-	52	44	96





### INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1957.

The death of one infant under the age of one year giving an infantile mortality rate of 9.01 as compared with the rate for England and Wales, which was 23.1.

### INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1957.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1 to 2 weeks.	1 to 6 months	6 to 12 months.	Total under 1 year.
Congenital Defect	-	-	-	1	1
Total:-	-	-	-	1	1

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### Domiciliary Services.

There are six general medical practitioners living and carrying on practice in the Urban District. There are adequate arrangements when required for domiciliary consultation with consultants serving the Taunton and West Somerset Area, and speaking generally, the practice of medicine in the district is of a high standard. The provisions for domiciliary nursing are satisfactory and the Home Help Service administered by the Somerset County Council renders most useful aid.

#### Hospital Services.

The Hospital Services of the district are administered by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee, under the general direction of the S.W. Regional Hospital Board. Some of the provisions for the needs of various types of patient are detailed below:-

GENERAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL. The Taunton and Somerset Hospital, together with Musgrove Park Hospital, which is also situated in the Borough of Taunton and which is probably eventually destined to supersede the first-named establishment, cater for most medical and surgical conditions. Musgrove Park Hospital takes most of the adult cases, and also has a comprehensive Paediatric Department. The Taunton and Somerset Hospital is in the meantime dealing with Orthopaedics and Ophthalmology. It also houses the Casualty Department for the area. Both hospitals have out-patient facilities in addition to in-patient beds. Certain cases requiring special investigation or treatment such as neurosurgery or radio-therapy are referred to Bristol Hospitals for this purpose. Wellington Cottage Hospital provides valuable facilities for local cases which do not require to be sent to large institutions, and complete consultant cover is available for the work carried out there.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. Cases of infectious diseases from Wellington Urban District are sent to the Taunton Isolation Hospital, situated in the Borough of Taunton. The bulk of the Isolation Hospital work is done in cubicles. The hospital has been admitting in the past year or two many cases, especially among children, of various pyrexial and nutritional illnesses not coming into



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strict category of notifiable diseases, which would formerly have been treated in General Hospitals. Home isolation is carried out wherever the home conditions are satisfactory. Most cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, and also cases of Puerperal Pyrexia. Cases of Poliomyelitis and patients suspected of having this disease have proved an increasing problem in recent years.

TUBERCULOSIS. Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the Regional Hospital Board for treatment, which is supervised by the Chest Physician for the area. The Pulmonary cases are sent to Quantock Sanatorium if the disease is in an early stage and the more advanced cases are sent to Taunton Sanatorium or to the Sanatoria of Wincanton and Chard. Cases requiring Orthopaedic treatment are admitted to Chard Sanatorium or to Bath Orthopaedic Hospital. Pre-tubular children and children with tubercular glands also come under the County Tuberculosis Scheme and are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.

POLIOMYELITIS. Suspected cases are sent for diagnosis to the Taunton Isolation Hospital. If the condition is confirmed they are seen by Regional Specialists, who arrange for continuation treatment either as out-patients or as in-patients at Bath Orthopaedic Hospital.

CHRONIC SICK, AGED AND INFIRM. Trinity Hospital, Taunton, admits cases of chronic illness from the district, and aged and infirm cases who do not require regular medical and nursing attention are admitted to The Lodge, Wellington.

MENTAL SICK. Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Tone Vale, near Taunton. The psychiatric specialists conduct out-patients' clinics for the area, and it is felt that now, more than ever before, mental patients are having the benefit of treatment at an earlier and more hopeful stage of the disease.

Mentally defective cases are well provided for at Sandhill Park Hospital, which is situated in Taunton Rural District.

#### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

TUBERCULOSIS. Clinics for patients suffering from this disease, and for the supervision of suspects and contacts are held by the Chest Physicians at Musgrove Park Hospital. There is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with these clinics. Mass radiography has been carried out from time to time on various groups of the County population by a team working from a centre in Bristol, and Wellington is one of the districts which has had the benefit of this service.

VENEREAL DISEASE. A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts.

Early cases of syphilis are usually sent to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, for a fortnight's intensive penicillin treatment as in-patients. Afterwards they continue observation and treatment at the Taunton Clinic.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington at which some of the mothers from Taunton Rural





District are confined. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with Medical Practitioners in the District. Abnormal and complicated cases can be admitted for hospital treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

A weekly clinic is held in premises at Messrs. Fox Bros. & Co. Ltd. An Assistant County Child Welfare Medical Officer attends on the first and third Fridays of each month, in addition to the District Midwives who attend weekly.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton at which all the usual specimens connected with Public Health work, such as throat and nose swabs, blood, faeces and sputum are examined. The Staff of the Laboratory also give very useful assistance in the investigation of epidemic outbreaks. Chemical Analyses are carried out as required by the County Analyst who has his Laboratory in Taunton.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. Ambulance transport for all cases has now become the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. A central ambulance department has been set up which arranges for vehicles to be provided as required.

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

No statutory action has been taken under this Act but cases have been removed by informal action.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY. This is derived from deep seated springs found in the old red sandstone at Westford and Payton and a bore-hole at Pitt Farm. There is no known liability to pollution. The water (180,000 gallons daily) is collected in underground brick and cement tanks without filtration and from thence pumped into three water towers, two situated in Rockwell Green, their capacities being 100,000 gallons (constructed in 1935) and 20,000 gallons, and the other at Dark Lane with a capacity of 40,000 gallons. The water is chlorinated before it reaches the consumer.

The Public Analyst reports that "The water is hard, the hardness being all bicarbonate hardness. It contains very little organic impurity. The amount of iron present is excessive for a potable water".

The supply of the area has been satisfactory as regards quantity, it is constant and it has not been necessary to restrict the hours of supply.

Thirty-six samples of raw water on bacteriological examination gave good results. Of seven samples of chlorinated water, taken from consumers' taps, which were bacteriologically examined, all gave satisfactory results. A sample from each of the following sources of supply has been chemically analysed:- Westford Springs, Payton Springs and Pitt Farm Bore-hole. All gave satisfactory results but the degrees of hardness in each case is somewhat high. The high iron content of the Pitt Farm Bore-hole water gives some concern. The amount of iron fluctuates. Since 1952 it has varied between 0.5 to 2.5 in 1954, 1.6 in 1955, 1.25 in 1956 and in 1957 it was 1.7 parts per million. This is more than that which is desirable in a water used for drinking and domestic purposes.





The water is not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action, it is somewhat hard, the total hardness being 290.0 parts per million, this being the mixed water from the three sources of supply as supplied to the consumer.

It has not been necessary to take action in respect of any form of contamination.

The proportion of dwelling-houses and the proportion of the population supplied from the public mains is as follows :-

(a) Water laid direct to houses .....	2389
Population supplied .....	7363
(b) Houses supplied by means of standpipes .....	15
Population supplied do. do. ....	47

There are 25 houses relying on well supplies in the District which are unable to obtain water from the public mains chiefly on account of the dwellings being an unreasonable distance from the mains and their inaccessibility.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL. The Tone Sewage Works consists essentially of continuous flow settlement tanks, the effluent from which flows on to a sprinkler aeration and bacteria beds. The clarified effluent so formed discharges into the River Tone. It is of statutory quality and has caused no nuisance in the river. The effluent continues to give satisfactory results on chemical analysis. These Works are running at full capacity and the Council have under consideration the provision of additional settlement, storm water and humus tanks and sludge beds and a new pumping plant.

In addition to the above main Sewage Disposal Works, there is a smaller works dealing with a limited amount of sewage to the South of the Town, known as Mitchell's Pool. These works deal with the Pyles Thorne area and the Priory. The effluent from these works give satisfactory chemical analysis results.

The drainage of the Town is by a combined system, that is, the sewers receive not only the sewerage proper but also the rainwater that falls in the area.

The River Tone bounds the Town in the North and West. The treated effluent of a Woollen Factory passes into the River as well as the effluent from the Sewage Works.

The water carriage system is practically universal in the District though not all closets have flushing cisterns. Some of the dwellings have water closets not connected to the sewer, these are 8 houses at Spypost and Bagley, 23 at Westford, 5 at Payton and 11 at Rackfield, the others are large houses and farms on the outskirts of the town.

As far as can be ascertained no crude sewage is discharged untreated but from 26 dwellings at Westford and Rackfield slop waters enter the stream in an untreated state.

Thirty houses are served by earth or chemical closets. These are in areas where no sewer is available and in the more rural parts of the District, mainly at Farthings Pitts, Westford, Winsbeer, Rackfield and Payton.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. This is undertaken by direct labour and all premises are visited weekly. The type of refuse now produced has a very high unburnable content due to the increasing installation



of improved solid fuel heating and cooking appliances by which much of the domestic refuse is consumed leaving burnt ashes, dust tins and bottles etc. for disposal. This, when fed to the refuse destructor is not easily destroyed, and results in excessive clinkering. The destructor is incapable of dealing with the quantity or type of refuse now collected per day, approximately 9 tons. To partially overcome this difficulty each load is raked over a grid in order to separate as much ash and small unburnable material as possible and the siftings taken to an adjoining tip. Tins are separated, baled and sold. The remainder is disposed of in the destructor. Even so the quantity to be disposed of is in excess of the destructors capacity and by having to use excessive forced draught damage is caused to the linings of the chamber and metalwork necessitating frequent repairs. The Council have given consideration to the provision of another destructor or alternatively acquiring a suitable site where controlled tipping may be operated.

The Council have excavated a site adjoining the Tone Sewage Works and tipping is now carried out there in addition to the refuse dealt with by the destructor.

Negotiations are in progress for tipping in part of a disused canal which will provide a small controlled tip for approximately 2 to 3 years.

Trade refuse from business premises is collected weekly. Two bins are collected free and all in excess are charged at the rate of 1/- per bin for the first three and 9d. for each additional bin. The size of the bin is restricted to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cu.ft.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS. No Council Houses or other premises were found to be infested during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES. There are no offensive trades in the District within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SCHOOLS. The sanitary conditions of the schools in the area continue to be reasonably satisfactory and they are all on the public water supply and sewerage system.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. There is one privately owned open-air swimming pool in the District which is open to the public. It is made considerable use of during the summer months and at times becomes overcrowded. The capacity of this pool is only 65,625 gallons. Bacteriological samples and residual chlorine tests of the water are regularly carried out during the season.

The Local Authority has definite powers and control over privately owned swimming baths and pools that are open to the public, the powers being available under Sects. 92 and 287 of the Public Health Act, 1936.





## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

### NATURE AND NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR:-

Dwelling-Houses .....	371
Premises where Food is sold or prepared .....	59
Bakehouses .....	12
Infectious Disease enquiries and disinfections, etc. ....	7

### NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR:-

Informal Notices .....	73
Statutory Notices .....	0

### RESULTS OF NOTICES SERVED:-

Total Notices complied with .....	61
Notices standing over at end of year .....	12

### CONDITIONS REMEDIED:-

Defective Drainage .....	34
Defective Sanitary Fittings .....	56
Dampness abated .....	27
Provision of New Water Closets .....	6
Miscellaneous .....	129

## SHOP ACT.

Certain powers relating to health and comfort and sanitary provisions are delegated by the County Council to this Authority and 49 inspections have been made. The defects found were mainly of a minor character and all were rectified by informal action. The number and types of defects which were rectified were as follows :-

Repair and renewal of Sanitary Conveniences .....	5
Provision of additional Cloakroom facilities ...	1
Provision of suitable Heating Arrangements .....	2
Provision of additional Sanitary Conveniences ..	2
Provision of additional Lighting and Ventilation .....	0
Provision of additional Washing facilities .....	12
Limewashing .....	2
Abatement of Nuisances.. .....	8
	<hr/>
	32

It was not found necessary to take statutory action to get the above defects remedied and no action has been called for in relation to heating arrangements.





FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

URBAN DISTRICT OF WELLINGTON : 1957

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the  
Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health made  
by the Public Health Inspector :-

Premises.	Number on Register	N u m b e r o f		
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	7	12	10	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	11	8	6	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Author- ity (excluding outworkers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL :-	18	20	16	-



## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.		Referred to H.M. by H.M.		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Inspec- tor. (4)	Inspec- tor. (5)	
Want of cleanliness. (S.1).	8	8	-	-	-
Overcrowding. (S.2).	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature. (S.3).	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation. (S.4).	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors. (S.6).	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7).					
(a) insufficient	2	1	-	1	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	6	6	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	2	2	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	18	17	-	1	-

BAKEHOUSES. There are three bakehouses in the District and 12 inspections were made. They are all kept in a satisfactory condition and are all on the public water supply. Minor defects have been noted and dealt with by informal action.

MEAT SUPPLY. On the 1st July, 1954, four slaughterhouses were licensed in this District but at the end of the year one was discontinued leaving three in operation. These three were again licensed during the year for a period of two years expiring in July 1959. The number of animals inspected during the twelve months are shown in the following table.



Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)						
Number inspected.	173	4	15	605	332	0
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	11	0	0	4	7	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	6.3	0	0	.66	2.1	0
<u>Tuberculosis only:-</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	4	0	0	0	15	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	2.3	0	0	0	4.5	0
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Generalised and totally condemned.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weight of Meat condemned (in lbs.) for :-						
(a) Tuberculosis.	156	0	0	0	92	0
(b) Cysticercosis.	0	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Other.	134	0	0	64	21	0
Total (in lbs.) condemned:-	290	0	0	64	113	0





The following quantities of foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption and surrendered by the owners and disposed of at the Council's refuse destructor:-

Tinned Foods ....	323 Tins	Frozen Geese.....	3
1 Box Smoked Fish	16 lbs.	Dried Fruit .....	30 lbs.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS. No outbreaks of food poisoning have occurred in the District during the year under review.

FOOD PREMISES. In 1950 the Council adopted Bye-laws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Inspections are made of food premises and advice given on methods of improving conditions. It is pleasing to record that the majority of traders are willing to co-operate.

59 Inspections have been made of the 47 food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, which are on the whole kept in a satisfactory state. The food traders are co-operative in having suggested improvements carried out and no exceptional difficulties have been encountered. There remains considerable improvement to be made in personal hygiene in the handling and wrapping of food.

There are 7 premises registered for the Preparation of Manufacture of Preserved Foods, 38 for the sale of ice cream and 2 to manufacture and sell ice cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. The seven are butchers premises for the manufacture of preserved meats, meat pies and sausages, etc.

The various types of food premises consist of the following:-

Grocers and General Stores .....	41
Butchers .....	10
Hotels .....	2
Guest Houses .....	8
Cafés .....	8
Fried Foods and Snack Bars .....	3

FOOD HYGIENE. Progress in connection with the Clean Food Campaign was again pursued during the year, and signs as to its effectiveness were shown by the increasing awareness of the public for the need of clean habits in food handling and a more critical attitude towards those who fail to observe proper elementary precautions. Advice on hygiene standards and technique was given to managements of food premises during the year. The process is one of education on the actual premises when various bad practices can be pointed out, and it is also important that hygiene practices should be observed in the homes, so that the younger generation will have the benefit.

Experience has proved beyond doubt that the vital part played by refrigeration in minimising the risk of food poisoning is greatly to be encouraged.

MILK SUPPLY. Of the 15 Milk producing farms in the District, 12 are supplied with water from the Public Supply, the remaining 3 are too far from the water mains to make the supply available.

Generally speaking, the dairy farms are kept in a satisfactory condition and the milk producers are realising the advantages to themselves and the consumers of a wholesome and clean milk supply.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER. No cows were slaughtered under this Order during the year.



## MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

Number of Registered Dairies .....	15
Number of Retailers .....	6

ICE CREAM. Under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, there are 40 premises registered for the sale of ice cream including two premises registered for manufacture of which one manufactures a hot mix.

The methylene-blue reduction test appears to be the simplest and most practicable single test for the routine grading of ice cream. During the year, 20 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Taunton, and classified as under :-

Grade 1 .....	16
Grade 2 .....	0
Grade 3 .....	1
Grade 4 .....	3

The quality of ice cream from any vendor is not assessed on the basis of a single sample; multiple samples are taken and a general opinion then formed. When results of samples are returned in Grades 3 or 4, visits to the premises are undertaken with a view to discovering the cause of the low grades. Invariably some cause of contamination, or incomplete cleaning and sterilisation of the plant is discovered. When precautions are taken on the advice given good results are usually produced.

Much of the low grading of ice cream is associated with faulty cleansing and sterilising of plant. The equipment used after the ice cream has been heat treated, namely cooler, storage tanks, freezer and pipes and valves going to the homogeniser, are the parts most likely to be the seat of the trouble. The majority of ice cream sellers prefer to sell the wrapped article. This is a good thing, as it prevents secondary contamination to a large degree.

## H O U S I N G .

Today, the repair of houses is of prime importance, and will remain so for many years to come. Whilst this Council has made great progress with the building of new houses, it has not been possible to deal with the older types of houses that are rapidly becoming derelict. These old properties have long out-lived their usefulness and cannot be repaired at a reasonable cost and must inevitably come into clearance areas. 1 application was received for Improvement Grant which was rejected.

Property which is below standard calls for a great deal of patience and tact all round, and in the meantime no end to the demand for new and improved accommodation can be seen for some years to come.

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The following table is required by the Ministry of Health.

(1) The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation:	28
(2) The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers:	112
(3) The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders:	0
(4) The number of notices served requiring the execution of works:	94
(5) The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	2
(6) The number of demolition or closing orders made:	0
(7) The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section (2) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936:	1
(8) The number of houses demolished:	25

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#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, emphasises the duty of every Local Authority to take all necessary steps to secure, as far as practicable, that their district is kept free from rats and mice. Occupiers must notify the Local Authority if their premises are infested with rodents. It is encouraging to record that occupiers of infested premises have been extremely helpful in co-operating with the Department in the clearance of vermin and in no instance has recourse to statutory action been necessary.





# PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES.	T O T A L.	A G E G R O U P:							Not known.	No. admitted to Isolation Hospital.
		0	1	3	5	10	15	25 and Over		
Measles	15	1	6	1	7	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2
Scarlatina	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Encephalitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Notification rates for Wellington Urban District compared with those of the previous year are calculated as per 1,000 civilian population. The year was notable for the very low incidence of notifiable infectious diseases.

DISEASES.	No. of Notifications.	Rates for Wellington U.D.C.	
		1957	1956
Measles	15	2.02	35.95
Pneumonia	4	0.54	0.41
Scarlatina	1	0.13	0.14
Whooping Cough	1	0.13	0.14
Acute Encephalitis	1	0.13	0.0

**DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.** For the sixteenth year in succession, no cases of diphtheria have occurred in the District. There is no doubt that this can be largely attributed to the immunisation campaign which has been in progress for the past 14 years. Immunisation is being carried out by the Medical Staff of the Somerset County Council and by General Medical Practitioners in the District. In the Circulars (193/45 and 194/45) issued by the Ministry of Health, stress is rightly laid on ensuring primary inoculation of as many pre-school and school children as possible. At the same time it must be remembered that, if diphtheria is to be kept under control, the state of resistance of children who have received primary immunisation must be maintained by re-inoculation at suitable intervals. Infants of the age of 8 to 9 months should be immunised because one of every two unimmunised contracting the disease under the age of one year dies. By the time the child reaches school age, the primary stimulus of the earlier immunisation has waned, and, to remedy this, every child should be given a reinforcing dose of antigen before he begins school attendance.

It is customary in the County of Somerset to combine immunisation against whooping cough with the course used to protect against diphtheria, and this is also a most valuable public health measure, since whooping cough is now probably the most serious of the common infectious diseases affecting young children.

In previous reports the total number of children known to have completed a course of immunisation at various ages was stated.



These figures are no longer available from the County Council, who are responsible for keeping records of diphtheria immunisation, but the following table indicates the number of children who completed a full course during the year 1957.

Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total.
35	10	-	-	-	12	-	57

POLIOMYELITIS PROPHYLAXIS.

During the year 1957 immunisation against poliomyelitis became available for the first time in this country. This is a method of protection developed in America, which involves the injection of two small doses of vaccine at a month's interval. The precise degree of protection conferred by this procedure is not known with certainty, but is probably in the region of 75%, and although this falls below complete protection it is almost certain that any child contracting the disease after having been immunised will suffer from it in a much less severe degree. During the year 72 children from the Urban District were immunised, and at the end of the year there was every prospect of vaccine becoming available in much greater amount so that immunisation could be offered to the whole child population.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases and number of Deaths from Tuberculosis are shown in the following Table :-

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS :-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-



At the end of the year there were 29 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the Register kept for this disease relating in this District. From the above table it will be seen that the year produced only two new notifications of Tuberculosis and this gives an indication of the great fall in the prevalence of this disease which is taking place at present throughout the country.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis in the Milk Trade, nor under Sect.172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.







